

Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01 /034 W

----- 047477

R 121449 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7432

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3885

NOFORN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, CO

SUBJ: SUGGESTED AWARD FOR COMMANDANT OF COLOMBIAN NAVY

1. ADMIRAL JAIME PARRA RAMIREZ WILL RETIRE 30 MAY OF THIS YEAR AFTER HAVING SERVED AS COMMANDANT OF THE COLOMBIAN NAVY FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS. THROUGHOUT THAT TIME HE HAS BEEN A STEADFAST FRIEND OF THE U S AND HAS DONE MUCH TO MAKE OUR TASK HERE PRODUCTIVE. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST FITTING IF THE CNO OF THE U S NAVY WOULD INITIATE AND SUPPORT THE AWARDING OF THE LEGION OF MERIT AT THE APPROPRIATE DEGREE. THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROPOSED CITATION: QUOTE FOR EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AS COMMANDANT OF THE COLOMBIAN

NAVY BETWEEN JULY 7/67 AND MAY 30/73. DURING THIS PERIOD, ADMIRAL PARRA CONTRIBUTED TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SECURITY OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE BY HIS WHOLEHEARTED COOPERATION IN THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF THE YEARLY UNITAS EXERCISES CONDUCTED IN CONCERT WITH THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND THE NAVIES OF THE OTHER AMERICAN REPUBLICS. THE INCREASING SUCCESS OF THE ANNUAL HALCON VISTA EXERCISE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND COLOMBIA CAN BE ATTRIBUTED IN A LARGE PART TO HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS IMPORTANT EXERCISE. ADMIRAL PARRA HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVE AND DISTINGUISHED PART IN EACH OF THE ANNUAL INTER AMERICAN NAVAL CONFERENCES AND HAS ACTIVELY FOSTERED THE AMICABLE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NAVIES OF THE AMERICAS AND HAVE RESULTED FROM THESE

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CONFERENCES. AS AN ENLIGHTENED LEADER HE HAS SUPPORTED THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES THAT PREVAIL IN HIS COUNTRY, AND HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED A FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE U S. DURING THE PERIOD OF HIS COMMAND, ADM PARRA HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE ADVANCING OF THE MODERNIZATION AND MARKED IMPROVEMENTS IN EFFICIENCY OF THE COLOMBIAN NAVY. THIS IN TURN HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP HAS MADE COLOMBIA A MORE EFFECTIVE PARTNER IN THE DEFENSE OF THE HEMISPHERE. UNQUOTE.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** NOFORN
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BOGOTA03885
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730546/aaaajhxi.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <08 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980217
Subject: SUGGESTED AWARD FOR COMMANDANT OF COLOMBIAN NAVY
TAGS: OGEN, CO, OGEN
To: PM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005